

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SOFIA 00853 100700Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /021 W
-----057417 100753Z /17

R 100600Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4537
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS SOFIA 0853

USDOC FOR BEWT

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, BTIO, BU
SUBJECT: GOB MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES REQUEST
FOR ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING AMERICAN FIRMS

REF: SOFIA 0826

1. WHEN EMBOFF MET ON MAY 4 WITH GOB MINISTER OF METALLURGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES, STAMEN, STAMENOV, FOR DISCUSSION OF MINISTRY'S PARTICIPATION IN TSS PROCESS CONTROL, THE MINISTER STATED THAT HE WISHED TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OBTAIN THE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE OF THE EMBASSY IN FACILITATING CONTACTS BETWEEN THE MINISTRY AND AMERICAN BUSINESS FIRMS. THE MINISTER STATED HIS PREFERENCE FOR DEALING FOR AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY WITH AMERICAN FIRMS, RATHER THAN WESTERN EUROPEAN COMPANIES OR "MIDDLEMEN". MINISTER STAMENOV FRANKLY STATED THERE WERE LIMITATIONS IN GOB HARD CURRENCY POSITION, BUT HE RECOGNIZED NEED FOR PROFITABILITY IN ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH AMERICAN FIRMS.

2. MINISTER STAMENOV AND FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER DIMITUR DACHEV USED BETTER PART OF ONE HOUR EXPLAINING SOME OF MINISTRY'S NEEDS FOR EQUIPMENT AND TECMOLOGY. AS LIST
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GREW, EMBOFF REQUESTED THAT MINISTRY PROVIDE REQUIREMENTS IN WRITING TO AVOID ERRORS AND ALLOW USDOC TO SELECT APPROPRIATE COMPANIES FOR NOTIFICATION OF MINISTRY'S NEEDS. MINISTER DESIGNATED DACHEV TO PREPARE LIST AND EMBASSY AWAITS NOTIFICATION FROM MINISTRY THAT PAPER COMPLETED. EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED APPOINTMENT FOR AMBASSADOR WITH MINISTER STAMENOV FOR EARLY NEXT WEEK. REQUEST USDOC FORWARD

ANY QUESTIONS OR GUIDANCE FOR AMBASSADOR'S USE WITH MINISTER
STAMENOV BY MAY 15.

3. MINISTER STAMENOV ELABORATED ON MINISTRY'S NEED FOR
TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT IN FOLLOWING AREAS: PROCESSING OF
FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS METALS, UNDERGROUND MINING ORE
DRESSING, SHAPED IRON, TUBING, THIN WALLED PRODUCTS, AND
EXPLORATORY DRILLING EQUIPMENT. ALSO, MINISTRY WISHES TO
CONSULT WITH AMERICAN FIRMS ON ENGINEERING PROJECTS FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TECHNOLOGY FOR EXTRACTION OF OIL
FROM SHALE, AND TECHNOLOGY FOR USES OF LOW GRADE COAL.
THERE IS NEED ALSO FOR QUALITY CONTROL EQUIPMENT AND
MEASURING TOOLS. (NOTE: EMBASSY RECEIVED TELEX FROM US
STEEL, PITTSBURGH ON MAY 9 REQUESTING ANY INFORMATION ON
GOB RENEWED INTEREST IN MAJOR INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS.
SUGGEST USDOC ADVISE US STEEL OF STATUS OF EMBASSY
DISCUSSIONS WITH MINISTRY.)
GARTHOFF

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